
Letters to Editor for April 5

By the Dayton Daily News

U.S. should close overseas bases

RE "Eleborate bases hint at Lenghty stay," March 21: Included in this story was a picture of a large swimming pool at a U.S. military base in Iraq. It mentioned that a mess hall seating 6,000 is planned for another one.

Probably even more American bases will remain indefinitely in Iraq unless there is an outcry from the public against this wasteful use of taxpayers' money.

How can there be true democracy in Iraq with the presence of U.S. bases looming ominously over the lives of Iraqis? Can there be any doubt that freedom in the United States would be jeopardized if another nation had such bases on our soil? That provides a hint about how Iraqis must feel.

The worldwide scope of U.S. military bases has been described by Chalmers Johnson in his book *The Sorrows of Empire*. The Pentagon has at least 702 overseas bases in about 130 countries.

This number, Johnson says, does not account for all the bases. Nine of them are so big that they require internal bus routes.

Americans need to demand that the U.S. stop building overseas bases and that they start to close those now in existence. These bases foster resentment toward our government and contribute to the insecurity of our planet.

—James A. Lucas

Huber Heights

Help shape health agenda

How many times have you wished that the government would take your advice? Here's your opportunity:

When Congress enacted the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, it added a provision that created a working group of 15 members; 14 citizens from diverse backgrounds and the secretary of Health and Human Services. Their job is to hold public discussions of options to address problems in health care and to improve the health-care system.

Meetings have been held since January and will be continuing through April. The working group will then issue interim recommendations before submitting final recommendations to Congress in September 2006.

Go online to www.citizens

healthcare.gov and fill out the simple questionnaire. Tell Congress and the president your ideas on how to fix the health-care crisis that is affecting 46 million Americans without health insurance or access to care.

One in nine Ohioans is uninsured. Health care in America has become a crisis.

—Rhonda Risner Hanos

Brookville

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